

Minutes of the Special and Regular Meeting of November 28, 2006

One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, California

SPECIAL MEETINGS

CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 P.M.

- A. Conference regarding Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: City Manager
- B. Conference with Labor Negotiator, Terry Belanger, pursuant to Government Code Section No. 54957.6: BPOA

Attended by Councilmembers Feierbach, Warden, Dickenson, Lieberman, Mathewson, Interim City Manager Belanger (Item B only), City Attorney Zafferano, Interim Human Resources Director Sam (Item B). City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 6:30 P.M.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

This meeting not tape recorded or videotaped.

STUDY SESSION - 6:30 P.M.

Joint Meeting with the Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Lieberman, Feierbach, Dickenson, Warden, Mathewson

COUNCILMEMBEERS ABSENT: None

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cheechov, Bortoli, King, Shjeflo, Andrews, Lyon, Gervais, Swanson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Lustenburger

Commission Chair Swanson outlined highlights of activities of the Commission during 2006, including the Community Garden, Belameda Park, the Library Grand Opening, interview process for the new Parks and Recreation Director, planning of the new Twin Pines Park Fence, subcommittee work on a field use policy and a city donation policy. She noted that two new subcommittees had been formed to address goals/strategic planning, and a recreation program assessment. She advised that the Commission

desires to be more involved in the community. She commented regarding the cooperative effort with the Chamber of Commerce on the Belmont Festival held in September. She noted the Commission's desire to meet annually with the City Council. The new City email system provides more opportunity for communication. She noted that the Commission meetings would begin at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:30, to encourage more public participation.

Commissioner Gervais commented regarding the strategic planning component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan development. He discussed the reduction in staffing as a result of Budget cuts in 2003, and described the department's challenges as a result. He noted the need to restore the Recreation Supervisor position lost during those cuts, and the need for another manager to free up the Director's time. He spoke of the need to restore other department positions as well.

Commission Chair Swanson noted that the Commission is solidifying its relationship with the new Parks and Recreation Director, and is strengthening its role in the community. The Commission's priority items for the coming year included the replacement of the Twin Pines fence, updating the Park Master Plan, and the renovation of the Alameda kiosk.

Councilmember Feierbach noted that the Commission's outreach could include interface with the Finance Commission on budgetary items, especially regarding the subsidy to the Parks and Recreation Department. She noted Commissioner Lustenburger spoke at her interview regarding the potential for teen tournaments. She noted the new start time for Commission meetings did not match the other commissions. She recommended the Commission look into an outreach program for volunteers.

Councilmember Lieberman suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider a joint meeting with the Finance Commission. He noted that the two departments have become more connected over the past couple of years. He stated that there is an intense use of and demand for field use.

Councilmember Dickenson expressed support for tournament sponsorship. He recommended consideration for sponsorship of a mountain bike race, which could bring revenue to the City, including fees and hotel and restaurant use.

Councilmember Warden noted that staffing levels of the Parks and Recreation Department is a challenge, since the department is subsidized, and recommended the department and the Commission

look for ways to increase revenues. The Priority Calendar for Parks and Recreation projects should be revisited.

Commissioner Gervais responded that the strategic planning process could address this issue. He noted the Commission will be approaching community groups to discuss park and recreation activities and programs.

Commissioner Shjeflo stated that the Parks and Recreation facilities are a big part of why Belmont is a nice place to live. He noted that in reviewing the current Master Plan, half of the goals have been accomplished in 15 years, which is a positive thing. The department has revenue challenges. He noted that Belmont's high-quality trails are well used, including by mountain bikers.

Councilmember Dickenson noted that there are regional bike committees associated with C/CAG (City and Council Association of Governments) which could help leverage dollars for bicycle projects in Belmont.

Commissioner Bortoli expressed support for connecting with the Finance Commission. He noted that there are always many ideas for projects but never enough money. He also noted that Belmont already hosts youth sports tournaments, and he commented it is sometimes difficult to leverage volunteers to assist with them.

Discussion ensued regarding the creation of a lighted holiday tree in TwinPines Park in the future. Mayor Mathewson clarified that the intent of the tree is to focus on the City Hall campus and downtown, not to detract from the one already present at Carlmont Shopping Center.

Patty Ciesla, Belmont bike shop owner, stated she chose Belmont for her business because of its proximity to Waterdog Lake's multi-use trails. She urged continued support for development of trails. She offered corporate sponsorship for a bike tournament, and noted this activity would be a big draw for Belmont.

Commissioner Shjeflo expressed support for a bike race. He noted that the timing is good now that the new trail signs have been installed. He also expressed support for a holiday tree in Twin Pines Park.

Commissioner Lyon stated there may be volunteer resources for trail building available through Carlmont High School. He noted that students need community service hours.

Discussion ensued regarding volunteer resources.

Diane Griest, Executive Director, Belmont Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for its assistance in the Belmont Festival. She noted that the Chamber was still evaluating the event, and they would follow up with additional information at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 7:25 P.M.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 8:55 P.M. (Note: Special Belmont Fire Protection District meeting held prior.)

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Lieberman, Feierbach, Dickenson, Warden, Mathewson

COUNCILMEMBEERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Belanger, City Attorney Zafferano, Community Development Director de Melo, Police Chief Mattei, Public Works Director Davis, Finance Director Fil, City Clerk Cook.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Mathewson stated that direction was given on Closed Session Item B. He noted that action regarding Item A would be announced later in the evening.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Update Report from John Oblak, President, Notre Dame de Namur University

President Oblak stated that there were 1600 students currently attending the University, 1000 of which were local. He outlined the University's continued contributions to the community, including arts, entertainment, sports, and a better-educated work force. The University is currently studying its economic impact in Belmont and San Mateo County, and enjoys making Belmont a University town. He noted the sports field renovation would be completed in February of 2007. "Scrooge" is a new production this year. There is a new peace display at the Province Center. The University is involved in strategic planning, and it recently received its eight-year re-accreditation. He described the recent dedication of the Veronica Skillin Garden on the campus.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Ridge, Belmont resident, stated she is renting her backyard for storage of a trailer, and she donates the revenue to charity. She has been advised by staff of the need to remove all items. She described a recent medical problem on board an airplane due to stress. She stated all properties in Belmont need to be cleaned up, not just hers. She has never made a threat and does not need the police chief. Children are throwing rocks at her house.

Peter Markovich, Belmont resident, expressed concerns regarding the recent smoking issue. He stated the enactment of an ordinance will force more people to smoke inside, subjecting family members to second-hand smoke. He concurred regarding the need to address this issue in apartment buildings, but not in the whole city. Smoking on the street is not a problem. Legal challenges will be costly, and it would be costly for people to be forced to sell their townhouse.

Shaun Brennan, Belmont resident, expressed concern regarding the new parking configuration at Carlmont High School and its affect on bicyclists. He recommended returning the area to parallel parking.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Lieberman described a recent incident involving a load of gravel dumped on the roadway, and he thanked the Public Works staff for its immediate response to the issue.

Councilmember Warden requested an update regarding the parking on Alameda. He noted that bike safety was not addressed when the parking was reconfigured.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Resolution 9827 Authorizing Change in Classification from Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk to Deputy City Clerk, and an Increase in Salary Range

Approval of Holiday Closure from December 25 through January 1, 2007

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Reorganization

Mayor Mathewson introduced the dignitaries in the audience.

Recognition of Outgoing Mayor

Councilmember Feierbach thanked Mayor Mathewson for working together with the Council. She noted he is courteous, elegant, and peaceful. She presented him with a plaque, an orchid plant, and a book of Mayors.

Councilmember Warden stating that a Mayor's year is always challenging, and there is pressure to be everywhere. Mayor Mathewson was a good presence in the community. He listened to all sides of issues.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that Mayor Mathewson's style helped the Council's cohesiveness.

Councilmember Dickenson expressed his thanks to Mayor Mathewson.

George Kranen, on behalf of the Belmont Kiwanis Club, thanked Mayor Mathewson for an exemplary year. He stated that the Kiwanis Club would make a contribution toward young people's activities in Mayor Mathewson's honor.

Ron Denman, President, Belmont Chamber of Commerce, expressed the Chamber's thanks to the Mayor. He noted the Chamber's recent reorganization activities, and announced the upcoming Gala event to be held December 1st. A membership drive is under way, and he described the new directory being planned by the Chamber.

Outgoing Mayor Comments

Mayor Mathewson thanked his partner for tolerating his many absences. He also thanked friends, advisors, the community, the City Council, and Vice-Mayor Feierbach. He noted that sometimes the Council disagreed, but usually reached compromise. He thanked Fire Board members Warden and Feierbach for their hard work on the assessment and fire issues.

Highlights of his Mayoral term included the demolition of the old police building, dedication of the new library and Belameda Park, improvements to one-stop permitting process, webstreaming of City Council meetings, infrastructure needs being addressed, including a new round of sewer bonds and road and storm drain improvements, the noise ordinance, administrative code enforcement citation process, upcoming General Plan update and Economic Development strategies forthcoming, and the second-hand smoke issue.

Mayor Mathewson thanked staff and other elected officials for their assistance. He noted that he worked with three Interim City Managers who did a good job for Belmont. He announced that during the other closed session held earlier, the City Council unanimously approved a contract to hire Jack Crist as permanent City Manager, effective January 8, 2007.

Jack Crist, incoming City Manager, stated that serving as Interim City Manager in Belmont was the highlight of his career, and he looked forward to returning to become permanent Manager.

Selection of Mayor for 2007

Mayor Mathewson called for nominations for Mayor.

Councilmember Warden nominated Councilmember Feierbach as Mayor.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Mathewson, Resolution 9828 Appointing Councilmember Feierbach as Mayor for 2007 was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

City Clerk Cook administered the Oath of Office to incoming Mayor Feierbach.

Selection of Vice Mayor for 2007

Mayor Feierbach called for nominations for Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Mathewson nominated Councilmember Lieberman as Vice Mayor.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Mathewson, seconded by Councilmember Warden, Resolution 9829 Appointing Councilmember Lieberman as Vice Mayor for 2007 was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Remarks by Incoming Mayor

Mayor Feierbach stated she likes shorter meetings. She is not as elegant as former Mayor Mathewson. She would like to do outreach to each Councilmember. Everyone will be heard. She never says anything she does not mean.

ADJOURNMENT to Reception at this time, being 8:45 P.M.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

Meeting Tape Recorded and Videotaped
Audio Recording 649